

which I feel calls for some notice on my part. It is there said, 'this topic (the appropriation of university or other public funds to the support of denominational colleges) reawakened renewed interest and attention from the recent action of the University Senate, in which Dr. Lillie was said to have concurred, and by which it was proposed that Government aid should be given to sectarian colleges from other than University funds. Allusion having been made to Dr. Lillie's concurrence in this scheme, that gentleman entered with some warmth into the subject, but did not disclaim the part attributed to him. It was generally felt that he did not reflect the views of the Congregational body in his action on the University Senate, and much regret was expressed that any seeming compromise should have been made on so important a matter.' On this I have to say, that no such action as that described by your correspondent has been taken by the Senate, or concurred in by me. There was no proposition on the part of either the Senate or of any of the committee of that body to provide funds either from the University endowment or from any other source, for the support of denominational colleges. All that the Senate did was to reply to a question submitted to it by the University commission, relative to the most advantageous application of such funds as might be at the disposal of the legislature for the support of such institutions, it being distinctly understood that there had been a promise that such funds should be provided by the Government. From the reply which was given to this question, cautiously as it was worded, so as to guard against being interpreted as approving of any division of the University endowment, I felt it necessary in committee to express my dissent, as I feared that such a construction might be put upon it. To this idea I have been always averse, and my objections to it are at this moment as strong as ever. It is true that, in a somewhat lengthened argument into which I entered (in committee) against both the principle of the division of the endowment and the grounds on which it has been demanded, I did express my willingness to have the internecine war, which has raged so long and so fiercely on the College question, put an end to, and harmonious co-operation on the part of the friends of a higher education secured, by dealing with the existing colleges (which would only number four, supposing both Trinity and Regopolis to accede to the terms which might be prescribed) as *special and exceptional cases*. Instead of meaning by this to give my assent to the principle of grants by the State to religious denominations, even for educational purposes—which is now acted upon, and is in some danger of being extended unless means be taken to prevent it—my aim was, along with the ends named above, to have it *put down for ever* by the assumption of a position in which, consistently and with propriety, every future application of the sort, from whatever quarter emanating, might be met with an *immediate and peremptory negative*. In my view I may possibly be mistaken. To infallibility of judgment I lay no claim. But what I have done to give my brethren fair cause of offence, I cannot comprehend. Be the idea I have thrown out right or wrong, I gave as distinct expression to it, in relation to two of the four existing colleges, as I have done now, in the presence of my brethren in union assembled at Montreal, two years ago, without being found fault with. They need have no fear of my implicating them, in the Senate or elsewhere, by professing to speak for them, unless instructed so to do. I understand our common principles, I trust, too well, and love them too much, to make my attempting anything of the sort possible. For their sake, not less than my own, I regret both what took place at Hamilton and the publicity which has been given to it, because it may expose them to misconception as to the measure of freedom in thought and action which they are disposed to concede to one another. Should the practice of calling up parties on mere newspaper reports—without intimation, at any rate, previously given—to explain unauthorised statements of their sentiments, establish itself as a usage among us, no one can tell how soon it may come to his own turn to be as deeply wounded, as I am not ashamed to confess myself to have been. The day is, I hope, far distant, when I shall be able without pain to hear myself charged, even by implication, by men whom I love and honour, and with whom I have felt and still feel it my privilege to be associated, with the betrayal of principles which I may be fairly expected to maintain. In consideration of the circumstances, the generous-minded of your readers will, I doubt not, excuse the 'warmth' which your correspondent reported."

— COUNTY OF BRUCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—*To the Editor of the Journal of Education.*—Sir,—Feeling the necessity and the utility of a Teachers' Association, nearly forty of the teachers of Bruce, Kincardine, Huron, Kinloss, and Kincardine Village, County of Bruce, enrolled them-

selves with a view to establish an association; and on the 5th of August, although raining heavily on that morning and during the night previous, twenty-five teachers met and formed themselves under a regular constitution, by electing Mr. A. Andrews (master of the Grammar School, Kincardine Village), as their president; Mr. Archibald Cameron, vice-president; Mr. Alexander McRae, secretary; and Mr. Angus Campbell, treasurer; and added, as an executive committee of three, Messrs. W. Montgomery, John Morrison, and John Millar, with the other officers *ex officio*, to act as cases might require. The association to meet semi-annually; and each member to write from one to six pages on the subject of their profession; to invite the *literati* of the neighbourhood to make remarks; to take measures for obtaining foreign talent to deliver lectures on the best and newest modes of teaching; and to do all they possibly can to help their own qualifications for their onerous, most difficult, and important task of teaching. By meeting at the proper seasons, the superintendent and township treasurers will be able to attend; and in place of running about from one office to another for their money, it can be paid them on the spot; and all needful registers, manuals, blank returns, and directions, which teachers, trustees, and schools may require, given with much less trouble and more effect. Farmers have their associations, mechanics their institutes, citizens their corporations, trades their clubs, and churches their societies,—one and all finding that "Union is strength," and that a body of individuals, all of the same mind and interest, can, with perfect ease, do a great deal more for their own advantage, than by one single person, with much trouble and expense.—Yours, most respectfully, WM. FRASER, *Lo. Sup. of Schools.*

— COUNCIL OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR UPPER CANADA.—His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointment, viz.: The Right Rev. John Lynch, D.D., Roman Catholic Bishop of Toronto, to be a member of the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada.

— WOODSTOCK SCHOOLS.—At the recent examination of the Woodstock schools, fifty girls presented their teacher, Mrs. Cullen, with a handsome album.

VIII. Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— DR. DAWSON, F.R.S.—The London correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, states that Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill College, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. This is a very high honour.

— THE COMET.—The comet, whose appearance was first announced two or three weeks ago as a telescopic object, has approached so rapidly that it now appears the size of a large star, and begins to throw out its rays, or tail, which will doubtless soon be elongated. It is now a very distinguishable object, between the Great Bear and the Pole Star, in the same part of the heavens where its two predecessors attained their magnitude. Indeed, the three last comets seem to have approached us by way of the Pole Star. We have seen no explanations nor calculations about this comet, probably because those concerning the previous comets were so unsatisfactory.—*Witness.*

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